



Fire as a Resource Management Tool



The National Park Service uses many tools to manage our natural and cultural resources. Fire is one such tool. By using a combination of techniques we can best manage wildland fire to reduce the risk to the public and to maintain healthy ecosystems on federal lands.



Fire Suppression Extinguishing or limiting wildland fires at their discovery by utilizing the safest and most efficient suppression methods available.



Prescribed Fire Any fire ignited by management specialists under predetermined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels or habitat improvement. An approved prescribed fire plan must exist prior to ignition.



Wildland Fire Use The management of naturally ignited (lightning) wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.



Mechanical Fuel Reduction The removal of natural vegetation with mechanized equipment and/or hand tools. Usually limbing and thinning vegetation and disposing of the material through pile burning.



Chemical Fuel Treatment The use of herbicides to control unwanted vegetation. Follow-up treatments may include mechanical fuel reduction.